

CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

DESIGN

ENHANCEMENTS

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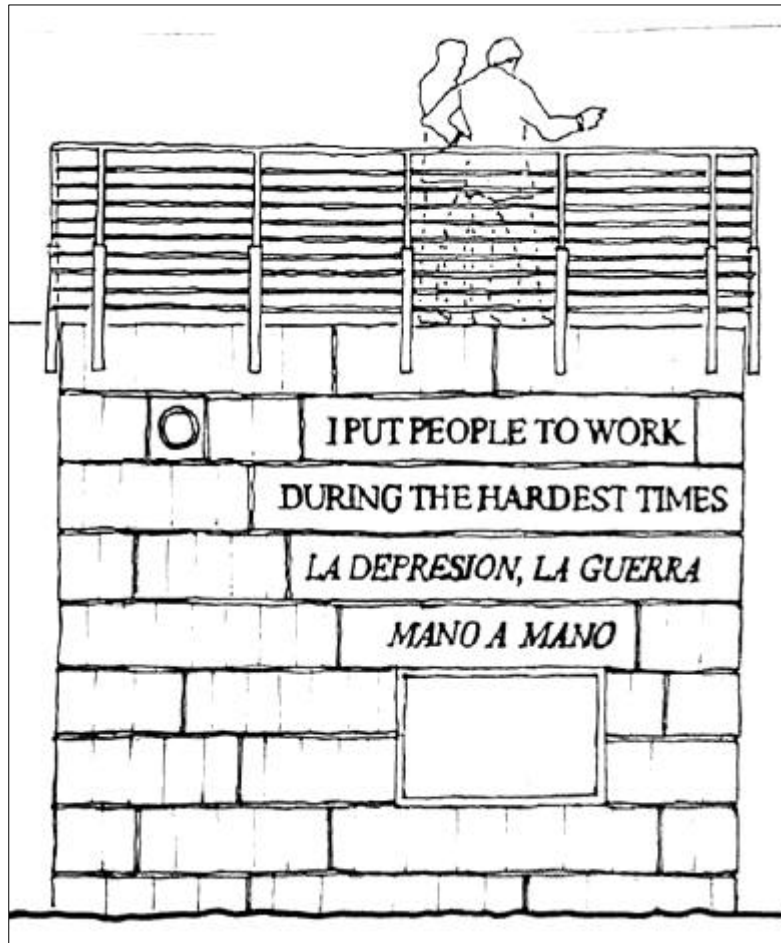
“THE RIVER SPEAKS” HAS EVERYONE LISTENING

Whether walking along Main Plaza or the San Antonio Riverwalk at the Commerce and Dolorosa intersection, everyone will soon be admiring the new river link and a site-specific art component titled “El Rio Habla” / “The River Speaks”.

Artist Celia Alvarez Muñoz, in collaboration with Lake/Flato architects, has designed as part of the Historic Civic Center Link Project, six walkway rest landings that will also function as a space to reflect on the historical evolution of the San Antonio River. The design team's effort has culminated in an exceptional art treatment that includes wall text and decorative pavement treatment.

The architecturally linked components will occur at ramps and stepped landings that bring pedestrians to and from the Riverwalk and Main

Plaza located at street level. The pathway metaphorically depicts a journey into the life of the river and its relationship to the City.



The six separate wall texts connect to form one continuous poem. Written as a narrative and communicating in a San Antonio/ South Texas speech vernacular, the text personifies the San Antonio River and speaks of its past, present and future. For example, the first landing at river level begins “LIKE LIFE, COMO LA VIDA I HAVE MADE ADJUSTMENTS BENDING HERE AND THERE CONTINUAMENTE.”

Each landing will also display decorative walkway elements, which are symbolic of “fossils”. An assortment of Celia's found and collected items will be

hand placed into the walkway surfaces to reflect on the archeological, social and industrial history of the City and its river. The project is scheduled for completion by September 2001.

1 Project News

Historic Civic Center River Link:
Project: text, fossils and landings

2 Project News

Riverwalk Park:
Project: Ornamental fence pump enclosures.

3 Project News

Presa Street River Link:
Project: Illuminated glass stepping stones

4 Resources

**Calendar of Events
Upcoming Projects**

Project News

Riverwalk Park: Ornamental Fences Forge Ahead!

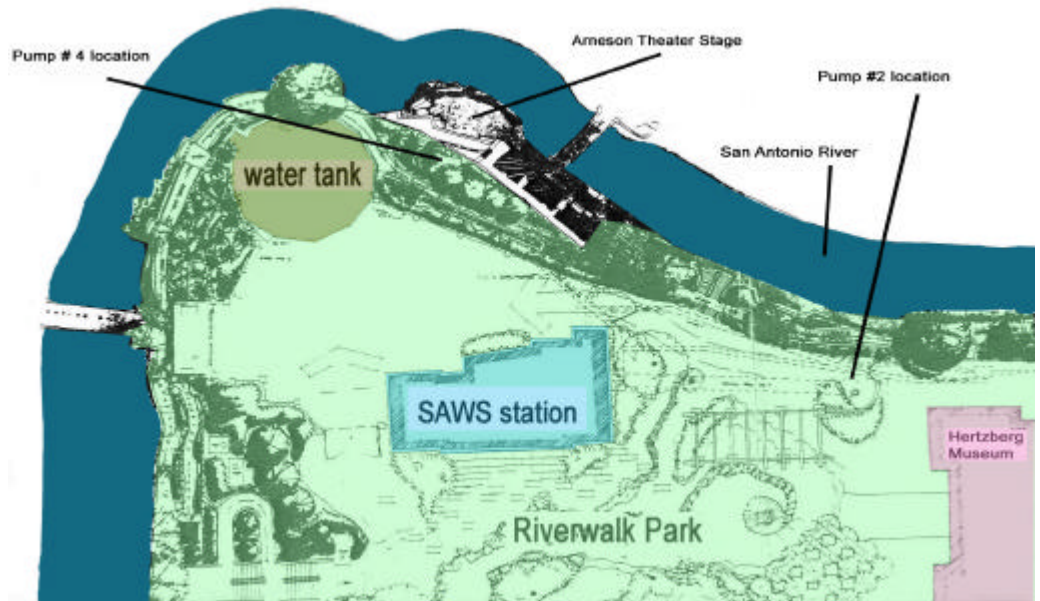
Later this Spring, visitors to the Riverwalk will be able to enjoy the two forged steel ornamental fences by local artist George Schroeder. They will be installed at the Riverwalk Park located on Market and Losoya Street adjacent to the Hertzberg Museum.

Riverwalk Park is a street and Riverwalk level park that surrounds the San Antonio Water Systems (SAWS) Market Street Facility and features new connective pathways that will take pedestrian traffic past Schroeder's fence enclosures for two SAWS pumps. (See map below)

Project architects 3D/ International, identified the pump enclosures as ideal opportunities for unique design treatments. In accordance with Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) guidelines the existing pumps will be renovated into above ground pump stations to meet new maintenance and inspection regulations. Once lifted, the pumps will stand approximately 12' high and span almost 24' in length.

Schroeder's initial design challenge was to enclose the massive above ground pumps in a manner that softened their appearance and blended in with the ambience of the park. In addition to these design concerns, the enclosures must provide at least 3' of access within the fence for routine maintenance, and be designed and built for complete removal when necessary. This was achieved by designing a fence that

consists of fence segments made of large-scale metal plates and manipulated into wave-like vertical and horizontal fence pickets. One area of the fence contains a hidden 4' wide gate for regular maintenance, and in the event the entire pump must be lifted by crane, the segmented walls of the fence can be unbolted and lifted right out of their footing's sleeves.



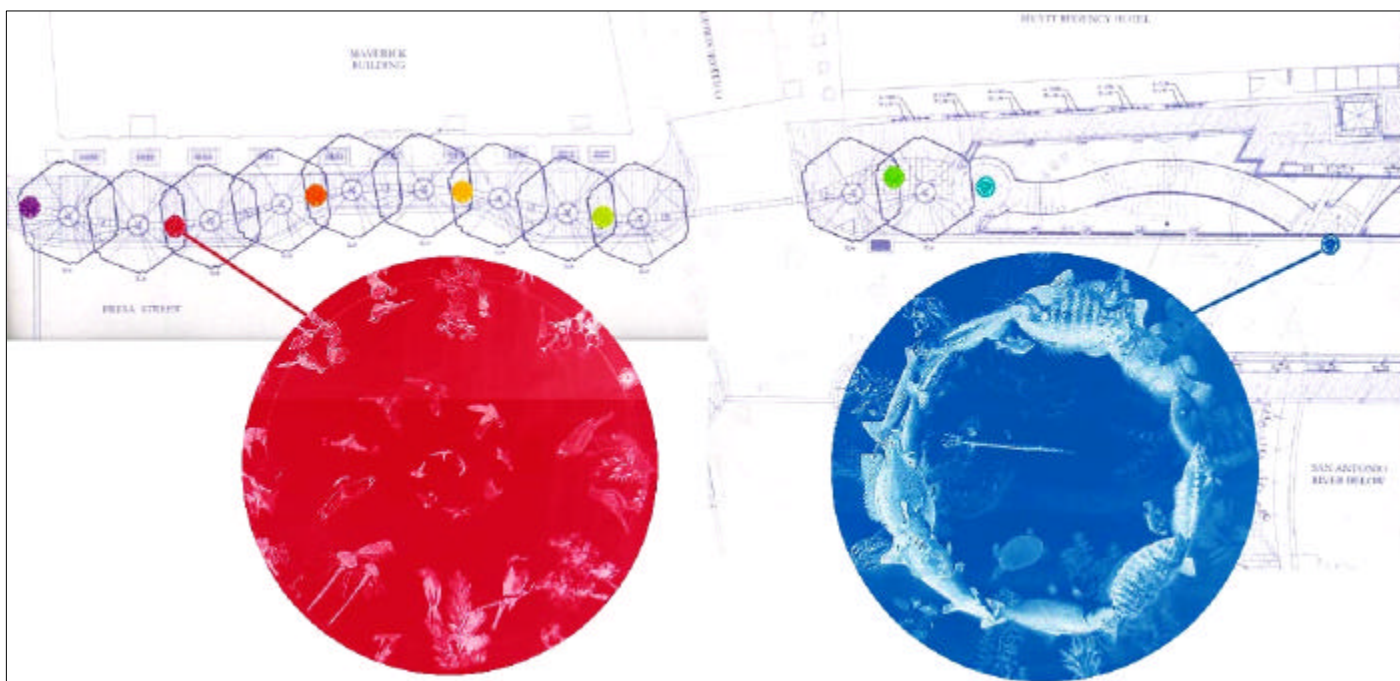
Presa Street: San Antonio through the “Looking Glass”

In October of 2001, downtown will brighten up with the installation of the new Presa Street illuminated glass walkway system designed by Beaty Partners Architects. The system was created to help link pedestrian traffic to and from the Riverwalk and Houston Street. Artist Cathy Cunningham will implement the unique treatment as part of new grand staircase and sidewalk design.

The enhancements begin at river level underneath the Presa Street Bridge with a large circular landing that will feature the first of eight illuminated glass artworks. Each tempered laminated glass is 32” in diameter with textured surfacing, and is installed into a recessed steel receptacle that will also house lighting elements. The glass medallions will be photo-etched from underneath and receive their inner glow from hidden neon tubing that will progress in color from cool to hot.

The glass medallions are designed to evoke awareness of change and evolution as pedestrians move from the natural Riverwalk level to the more contemporary business district at Houston Street. Cathy achieves this goal through the progression of color and photo etchings of zoological images relating to the river.

At river level, viewers will encounter the first glass etching, illuminated in blue and depicting fish swimming in a circle at the river's bottom. As the sequence progresses, the illuminated glass medallions will feature amphibians crawling about, then reptiles, insects, winged insects, birds, mammals and finally mankind, the tourist. From a distance the soft colorful glow will illuminate the pathway, which begins at Houston, continues across Crockett until it descends down to the Riverwalk.





Ruben Luna
Abuelita, 2000

**Xicano Evolution
Exhibit of works by
local young Latino
artists.**

February - April 2001
Central Library Gallery
600 Soledad S.A., TX
78205

People, Places and Ideas ...

Paintings by Don Stewart

February 8-April 30, 2001
Office of the City Manager and
Mayor Reception Room
203 S. St. Mary's, 3rd Fl., SA,
TX 78205

*Patrimonio Historico de las
Islas Canarias / Historical
Heritage of the Canary Islands*
**Photographs by Andres
Solana Suárez**

March 5 - May 31, 2001
International Center
203 South St. Mary's, 3rd Fl.,
SA, TX 78205

UPCOMING PROJECTS

San Antonio River Channel
Improvement Project

Construction is underway for the San Antonio River Channel Improvements from Lexington to Houston streets. The project consists of ecological and infrastructure stabilization, landscaping treatments, street linkage improvements, and unique enhancement components developed by project architects Bender-Wells-Clark. San Antonio artists Carlos Cortés and Oscar Alvarado have been selected to implement the proposed unique enhancement treatments

Concrete sculptor Carlos Cortés will design and fabricate on site a trellis modeled in a tree motif. The trellis will extend overhead and provide shade and ambience for the Riverwalk pedestrian path near Municipal Auditorium.

Tile artist, Oscar Alvarado, is creating tile mosaic treatments for several bridge underpasses along the project's path. His tile treatment will also be applied to the new fountain feature in Convent Park which transitions from street level down into the river at Convent Street.

*More to come in upcoming Design
Enhancement Newsletters.*

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Howard Peak

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James LeFlore, Program Mgr.

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Design Enhancements
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